

Department of State

# TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISD-00 CIAE-00 QODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06. OHA-02  
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1596

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI ( ) RELEASE ( )

AMEMBASSY THERAN ( ) EXISE ( ) DEC

( ) DENY ( ) DEL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGDY, AF

SUBJ: PRESIDENT DAOD DISSOLVES GOVERNMENT,  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ENDS MARTIAL LAW

REF: KABUL 1379

1. AFGHAN MEDIA FEBRUARY 26 ANNOUNCED PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION THAT: 1) THE STATE OF MARTIAL LAW ENDED WITH THE SIGNING OF THE NEW AFGHAN CONSTITUTION (REFTEL); 2) THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS DISSOLVED; AND 3) ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT (I.E., CABINET) IS ALSO DISSOLVED AND THAT DEPUTY MINISTERS WILL CONDUCT THE AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRIES UNTIL THE FORMATION OF A NEW CABINET. ANNOUNCEMENT RECALLED ORIGINAL NEED FOR MARTIAL LAW FOLLOWING CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT ON JULY 17, 1973 AND ENDED WITH STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT DAUD EXPECTS ALL CITIZENS "TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR NATIONAL DUTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VALUES OF THE CONSTITUTION".

2. COMMENT: WHILE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS TAILORED

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TO MEET LEGAL REQUIREMENTS INVOLVED IN THE CHANGE-

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OVER FROM A REGIME BASED ON A MILITARY COUP TO A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT, ITS INTENT AND IMMEDIATE EFFECT GO FAR BEYOND LEGAL NICETIES. THE ABOLITION OF THE SHADOWY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, LAST DISPLAYED CEREMONIALLY AT THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENDING OF MARTIAL LAW APPEAR TO HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT AND HOPEFUL EFFECT ON THE GOA OFFICIALS, EDUCATED ELITE, AND POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS AFGHANS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN. THESE PERSONS APPEAR TO SEE IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT LEAST A PARTIAL RETURN TO NORMALITY: TO FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION, AND EXPRESSION OF OPINION. THOSE MORE SKEPTICAL ARE RESERVING THEIR JUDGMENT UNTIL THE NEW CABINET IS ANNOUNCED, TO SEE WHETHER THERE WILL BE A SIMPLE RESHUFFLING OF OLD FACES OR A CREATIVE BLEND OF NEW AND OLD. AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE FEBRUARY 26 ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MORE HOPEFULLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY THE KABUL PUBLIC THAN THE STEP-BY-STEP DELIBERATIONS OF THE LOYA JIRGAH AND THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CONSTITUTION WHICH PRECEDED THE ANNOUNCEMENT. ELIOT

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